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THE OLD CITY, DEFENSE ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

by

A. Sloboda and D. Simoniv



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Temeljima)

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PREPARED BY:

TRANSLATION DIVISION
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
WP-AFB, OHIO.

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THE OLD CITY, DEFENSE ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Stari grad, odbrana na cvrstim temeljima

A. Sloboda and D. Simoniv

Front, Vol. 36, No. 43,
1980

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Last year the Old City in Belgrade was the most successful representative of the concept of nationwide defense in the Federal Republic of Serbia and was awarded the Great Medal of the JNA [Yugoslav National Army] as a symbol of merit.

The Old City is an extraordinary community in many ways. For example, it includes the Kalemegdan Fortress, the site of great battles for freedom and the witness of superhuman devotion and courage in the defenders of the city. The modern generation is also steeped in these traditions. Therefore this community reaches back to the oldest part of Belgrade. It is located in a small area, less than 7 square kilometers, almost one-third of which is covered by the Danube and Sava rivers. It is also remarkable that 83,000 inhabitants live and 130,000 employees work in this area. During the day approximately 300,000 to 350,000 people are within the area of the community. This is understandable when it is realized that various organs and organizations of interest to the Federal Republic are located here in the city. Large numbers of goods of every kind and almost all the treasures, financial and other properties of all banks, are located here. There are 10 colleges with more than 15,000 students, 13 secondary schools with 10,000 students, 8 elementary schools with 5,000 pupils, 11 museums, 2 galleries, 3 theaters, 2 libraries and 11 movies with 100,000 seats. It also includes the Urban and Republic Parliaments, the Tanjug [New Yugoslav Telegraph Agency], the departments of "War" and "Politics", Radio Yugoslavia and Radio Belgrade. In addition there are the Yugoslav Trade Union Congress, the Social Bookkeeping Service, the Chamber of Commerce of the SFRJ [Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] and other buildings of special social significance. These facts give testimony to the exceptional nature of the Old City, but there are also many more.



Vitomir Ivkovic,
"Smederevka"
General Director



Dragoje Tesic,
ONO Committee
Chairman



Radmila Zoric,
Deputy Secretary
of Local "Dunav"
Associations of
Basic SK Organizations

The community is divided into 16 local units, embracing 974 basic social work organizations, working associations and working organizations, 116 agencies, and 800 independent craft shops. 33,000 families live in 25,000 apartments. More than half of the apartments were constructed before World War I. The district has 136 streets with 70 kilometers of road network. It also includes important traffic junctions for water, highway and railroad traffic. Many kilometers of water and sewage lines run beneath the ground. All of these also have a defense importance. The district also has 3.6 kilometers of river shoreline along the Belgrade harbor basin, wharves for river traffic on the Sava River and for freight on the Danube with 2 border crossings. Last year 416 passenger ships, 106 yachts and motorboats with more than 60,000 foreigners and approximately 110,000 domestic passengers passed through the passenger piers on the Sava River. Some 4,890 freight ships and other water vehicles with more than 58,000 sailors passed through the Danube border crossing.

Therefore the Old City community is the business, economic and cultural center of the city and of large sociopolitical associations. The greatest part of the combined foreign and domestic market work is located here, along with restaurants and hotels, civic engineering, roadbuilding, newspaper and publishing activities, and educational, cultural and scientific institutes. The total income of the community amounts to 14.8% of the total income of Serbia.

Defense preparations joint task

Accomplishment of the tasks in the area of national defense in the community developed under complex conditions of economic life, continued construction and intensification of individual socioeconomic relations. The working people and citizens, as advocates of defense preparation, accomplished great tasks last year in the area of national defense, the most essential of which were: drafting, polishing, up-dating and consolidating defense plans; formation of a committee for nation-wide defense and social self-defense; training basic social work organizations and working associations for work in wartime; implementing a system of mobilizing and processing territorial defense and civil defense; and developing a system of observation, information, reporting and alerting.

In performing these tasks, the Urban Parliament and its organs, social work organizations, working local and independent interested associations, and sociopolitical and social organizations adopted further socialization of nation-wide defense as a priority. Proper mass, organizational, expert, material, propaganda and political preparations with the active participation of hundreds of thousands of working people and citizens and with independent power to solve questions in the area of national defense and direct preparation for defense and protection created favorable conditions for efficient defense and protection and for successful functioning of the sociopolitical system in time of war.



Zoran Dragoj,
Activist in Local
"Dunav" Association

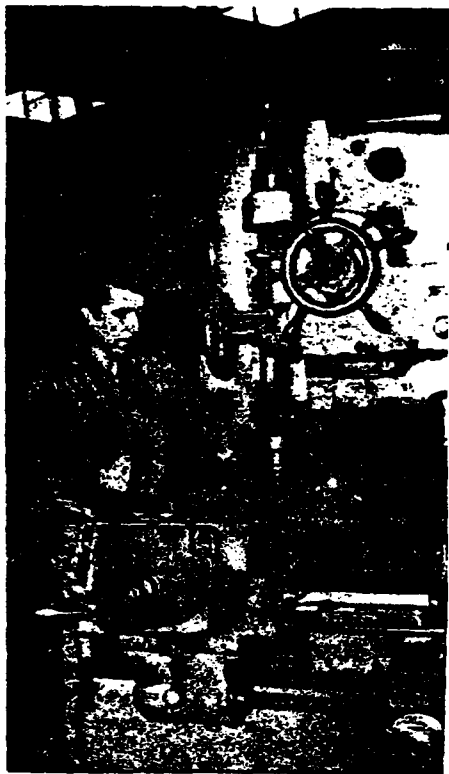


Marko Zalad,
Secretary of
"Daka-mont"
Basic SK
Organization



Petar Maric,
General Director
of "David Pajic"

The Urban Parliament and its organs intensified all of their activity in the area of national defense and directed it toward further development of the defense system. They inspected its program subject matter, consolidated policy and followed its implementation. The agenda of the Parliament also included questions of making plans to develop national defense, financing the needs of national defense, the state and conduct of measures to organize services for observation, information, reporting and alerting in the community, setting up files and recruiting young people for JNA service, acquiring means of individual and collective RHB protection, collecting and administering aid to civilian victims in Montenegro, etc. The Parliament also approved a number of important decisions, such as: a decision on protection against natural disasters, a decision on work organization in the Urban Parliament organ during wartime, and other solutions concerning cadre training.



Svetomir Cakarevic, ONO Committee Chairman

The Council for National Defense constantly monitored and evaluated the level of development of defense preparation, directed and coordinated the activities of each national defense component in every structure of the community and, in accord with the tougher policy, implemented suitable measures to promote the defense system. In short the Council involved itself in all questions important for defense training, from the work program to the methods and conditions of promoting the rights and duties of citizens in national defense organs. The members of the Council participated in monitoring mobilization and other drills of territorial and civil defense units, as well as other practical activity in the area of national defense, where they became directly acquainted with the state of preparation for

defense and offered expert advice. The successful work of the Council was also aided by the commissions which completely monitored and evaluated the state of individual components of national defense.

The Executive Council of the Urban Parliament directed and coordinated the work of the administrative organs, the specialized services and special urban organs for the purpose of consolidating the policy and consistent implementation of tasks in the area of national defense.

All planning tasks were accomplished, thanks to the unified involvement of all urban agencies. Mobilization and recruiting operations were promoted. Informing delegations, delegates, and working people and citizens contributed to a mass inclusion of all citizens in defense preparation. Economic preparations for work in time of war were coordinated with the newest Federal and Republic instructions. Preparations of local units for work during wartime were developed under conditions of further strengthening of the delegate system and all independent relationships. Independent and interested units made visible progress in preparations for defense.

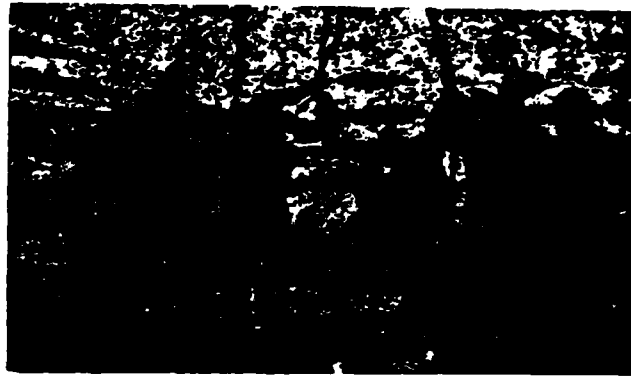
This was the condition at the end of 1979. However, almost a year had passed since then, and the citizens of the Old City were never satisfied with their achievements. By means of their united work they had built a defense system and, since the beginning of the 1970's, have consistently made progress. As a result of this work they earned a number of awards, including the Outstanding Republic Medal in 1976, the Medal of the Parliament Executive Committee in 1977 for security and self-defense, and the Great JNA Medal in 1979 for comprehensive results in defense training. This year they made progress in planning.



Members of the "David Pajic" Civil Defense Unit were given high credit for good military training.

Territorial Defense Doubles

Forces have been doubled in territorial defense. The units were inspected last year, and the inspection produced a high evaluation for training, equipment and armament (all have modern arms). Nevertheless it was demonstrated that a great deal can still be done to strengthen them, especially through the formation of new independent units in smaller social work organizations. Today there are already 339 new ones of different sizes. This includes a large number of women (approximately 9%), who have expressed a willingness to enter the territorial defense system. The newly formed units have already received training with their own resources.



At one of the drills of a civil defense unit.

In the units a great deal of attention is devoted to the chief cadres, from their selection to expert military improvement. Added to this is the fact that all leaders have completed certain JNA schools and courses, that 97% of them are communists and that approximately 75% have gone through the JNA school center after serving their year of military service. In addition to this the Community Territorial Defense Staff regularly certifies instruction with the commanders of the basic units. Thus they are prepared for a qualitative evaluation of service. The service response is outstanding, an average of about 95%. All units formed by the beginning of this year have gone through various drills (3 to 5 days), have fired with sidearms, have gone through one-day training and have had mobilization drills. Training is conducted on Saturday and Sunday, which appears reasonable, but requires

intensified efforts, especially from the staffs. Still the people are willing and regard this as a normal obligation. All units have developed mobilization plans, and tests have shown that the units can gather in from 6 to 12 hours, but also that this time can be reduced to 3 to 7 hours.

We have already said that the units are equipped with modern arms. The great understanding of those employed in social work, who do not stint their resources, contributes most to this fact. They have contributed almost half of the money allotted to territorial defense, and even more in the National Five-Year Plan. More territorial defense units are anticipated, and consolidation of the newly formed units, the formation of new units in local ones, more equipment and more quality military training have been organized.

Civil Defense Priority

As early as 4 years ago the Urban Parliament concluded that civil defense should be a priority mission in all organs, organizations and units within the community. The area now has 153 civil defense staffs and 1,120 representatives, while the units include more than 25,000 enlistees, 11,000 of them women. This very year more than 11,000 civil defense enlistees have participated in drills, with 7,400 in inspections and 100 teams in competition. Fire protection, with consideration of the specific nature of some developments, has been well organized, and there are now more than 1,300 enlistees in fire-fighting units.

Regardless of high awards for results, various shortcomings were demonstrated in units at the end of last year. For this reason this year activity has been devoted to up-dating files, mass training of the populace in self-protection, equipment for fire-fighting units, etc. Thus, of 6,300 enlistees registered for 6 months training, more than 5,000 completed it. More than 300 commanders of civil defense units from social work organizations were

trained in an especially organized course, and they are now capable of conducting complete training for the units which they command. In connection with the Federal Center for Civil Defense, the Community Secretariat for National Defense has organized complete training of the community staffs and a certain number of members of civil defense staffs from social work organizations and local units, after reducing the program from 35 hours.

This year on the community level, more and more different drills and inspections have been held in social work organizations and local units. The drills have involved 314 civil defense units with approximately 6,000 members and more than 38,000 workers and citizens. Training has included the clean-up of consequences of military destruction in business, residential and other buildings, testing mobilization readiness and the implementation of alert measures. At the "Kosmaj 80" demonstration drill, conducted within the territory of 5 local units, in addition to the community civil defense detachments, the municipal "Neimar" combined detachment and local units, participants included 213 social work organizations and working units with components of national defense and joint self-defense units, independent craftsmen, police militia, the Health Center, the national technician clubs, etc. Limited evacuation was carried out, business and residential buildings within the territory of the 5 local units were blacked out, temporary shelters were established, etc.

Evaluation was also made of the successfully conducted activity of the staffs and civil defense units according to numbers, quality, discipline, persistence and responsibility of the participants, making a special contribution to the total organization and equipment of the community for defense and protection. However, nevertheless, at the end of this year the social work organizations, the local units and the community organs were continuing



Dojcin Moraca,
Head of Community
Secretariat for
National Defense



Stevan Trtica,
Commander of
Community Staff
for Territorial
Defense



Svetozar Andelic,
Leader of Community
Staff for Civil
Defense

to plan missions within the framework of "Nothing Surprises Us", so as to provide complete realization of the program of activity.

Sociopolitical Organization Contribution

820 basic SKJ [expansion unknown] organizations with 35,000 communists work in the community. They work in every system in the community, but the role of the Communist League in defense preparations cannot be distinguished separately. Thus, communists are in the secretariat, in staffs, committees, workers' unions, local organizations and various working bodies, and in the units of territorial and civil defense of the Community Conference and Committee, their activity is directed toward the preparation of basic SKJ organizations for work under wartime conditions, with the emphasis on training to prevent and eliminate critical situations. Specialized working groups of communists have visited more than 300 basic social work organizations and helped in producing correct plans for the defensive confrontation and

elimination of critical situations. This work has contributed to a good knowledge of the political situation in those circles, and conditions have been established to avoid possible hostile action. Worker organizations and local units are capable of eliminating undesirable situations without using extraordinary measures, by means of regular independent and social procedures. The party organization has also examined the question of further development of territorial and civil defense units, and especially their personnel base. In the civil defense units every third member is a member of the Yugoslav League of Communists, while every second territorial defense person is a member.

The Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia is a well organized front in the community with 16 local units. The branches are formed by blocks and regularly participate in action to strengthen the nation-wide defense system. The Old City has a large number of participants from the NOB [War of Liberation], who represent the real core and driving force of this activity.

Associated organizations have also made significant contributions. 135 organizations and associations work actively. Scouts, radio clubs, divers, the Union of Reserve Officers (nearly 7,500 members), and others, provide trained people, not only for the community but also for the armed forces as a whole.

The young people are classified in 196 basic organizations of the Yugoslav Socialist Youth League. Some 25,000 of the 40,000 young people are organized. They work with the scouts, vacation and sports organizations, the Red Cross and approximately 1,000 national technical clubs. The youth work activity is the most organized form of action, but they can be very quickly collected for any other kind of activity. This is just the reason that they represent the nucleus in the formation of units in cases of natural disasters. The



Milutin Peric, Leader of Community
Staff for Territorial Defense



Branko Vujicic, Old City
Urban Parliament Chairman

youth organizations assist the work of 8 pioneer detachments, encompassing 6,500 pioneers.

Business and Defense Boom

The "David Pajic Daka", our greatest manufacturer of elevators known abroad, has gone through a path of development characteristic of many of our enterprises. This worker organization, large and valuable today, began in 1947 with the union of several minor private businesses. The old machine and obsolete craft technology of the enterprises had begun with a broad manufacturing program: from razor blades and scales to metal products and elevators. Of 270 employees only a few were mechanics, and the rest were qualified and unqualified laborers, not a single engineer.

The "Daka" developed rapidly with the development of our society. The elevators became its basic product. In the first year 10 elevators were manufactured, while today approximately 1,400 are produced annually. Today the 4 basic social work organizations and the 2 working units have approximately 2,200 employees, of which about 100 are engineers, 600 highly-qualified workers and 400 qualified laborers. Although the work is 69% mechanized,

Sava Delibasic, the director of the OOUR "Daka-product", has stated that the working people annually produce about 1 billion dinars in profit and earn an average of 8,770 dinars.

Along with their good operation, the workers of "David Pajic" achieve success in training for nation-wide defense and in implementing group self-defense measures. The employees in this worker organization understand and perform these duties as part of their **everyday** tasks. According to Tihomir Konstantinovic, a national defense official, their high level of consciousness is likewise demonstrated by the fact that by the end of this year they will have spent almost twice as much money to equip their units as was anticipated in the Five-Year Plan. In this way they will manage to have their territorial defense units completely armed and outfitted, while the equipment of some specialized civil defense units will be 97% supplied, especially with technological defense materiel and equipment.

From Courier to Director

Filling the units with their human complement has never been a problem, and more have always applied than were needed. There have also been 5 women among the volunteers for territorial defense. There has only been a problem when a unit had to be "rejuvenated" with new registrants, since the older members do not wish to resign. Anyway, according to Ljubomir Marjanovic, a territorial unit leader, they have all been real "doughboys", and about 85% of them are excellent marksmen. In addition to excellent results in military shooting, those in the "Daka" territorial units have demonstrated a high level of training and responsibility in the missions conducted in tactical and mobilization drills.

Civil defense units have been organized on the level of every worker organization. Since some people have been constantly in service shops outside



One of the streets in the Old City

of worker organizations, there are difficulties in including them in defense preparation. Therefore contacts have been established for the purpose of including them in some local units where such service shops are found, such as in Sarajevo where "Daka" has its largest service shop.

The workers who are not allotted to the armed forces and civil defense are not neglected either. By the end of the year all of them, from courier to director, will be trained to use protective means of fire-prevention.

The "David Pajic" collective is also concerned about acquiring personnel outfits for RHB [expansion unknown] protection for its workers. So far this equipment has been acquired on credit for 287 workers through the labor union, and purchasing will continue in the future.

Just as in other areas of life and work, the leaders in activity and defense preparation in worker organizations are SKJ members, and the current secretary of the basic SKJ organization is Marko Zalad.

In addition to numerous medals and awards for the success achieved for operations in nation-wide defense and joint self-protection, the "David Pajic" workers earned the Belgrade October Award this year.

Crisis Surmounted

For years people have talked of the "Smederevka" trade worker organization, not only in the Old City community, but also throughout the city. Life started 30 years ago with a few minor shops, market counters, animal-drawn transport and 107 employees.

Today, according to the general director Vitomir Ilkovic, "Smederevka" with its 820 employees fits into the system of working organizations which occupy a significant place in the Belgrade economy. An attempt is being made to see that citizens are well supplied with food items through 110 retail establishments in 10 Belgrade districts and 60 local stations. The planned turnover this year of 900 million dinars is 2 and one-half times greater than 4 years ago. This success was achieved primarily through a new distribution of labor and the support of every member of the collective. Workers have changed a great deal, Ilkovic continued, in the way they think, work and speak in the collective. Everyone has correctly grasped his place and role. Good interpersonal relations, mutual respect and harmony, and conditions for every individual to enjoy the results of his work have been established.

Friendliness in Work and Defense

The OOUR [expansion unknown] Retail Director, Petar Nikocevic, said that: "Smederevka workers do not associate exclusively with each other. Our collective is open to everyone. We collaborate with many local units, and with worker and sociopolitical organizations. Representatives of the consumer councils of local units attend the meetings of our labor council, while we particularly and traditionally have good collaboration with members of the Sixth Police Station."

Such work and the mutual efforts of the "Smederevka" workers in performing their tasks have achieved the results observed in the field of national defense and joint self-protection.



There are more and more women in territorial defense units.

Although this is a matter of a trade worker organization which operates with low accumulation and with an average personal income of 5,700 dinars, not a single worker has hesitated when it was necessary to help set aside 40 times more funds than those anticipated in the Five-Year Plan for equipping its units. Radman Stevcic, the director of the "Skadarlija" OOUR retail store, said that they are proud of their territorial unit which contains quite a few women, and which is better in firepower than many similar ones. However, "Smederevka" is not distinguished from other organizations by well-equipped and well-trained territorial and civil defense units. According to the official for national defense and joint self-protection, Danil Pavicevic, it is characterized by a very broad and fruitful collaboration in organizing civil defense measures with the 52 local units which have sales establishments. The advantages of this type of collaboration have already been



At the firing range.

proven in practical exercises, which have been awarded numerous prizes from local units and the Old City community.

These are not the only forms of preparation for defense and joint self-protection. The "Smederevka" workers contribute by their defense preparations, and by valuable operations, independence and savings, in a word by responsible performance of the tasks accepted by them. As director Ilkovic said, the numerous awards earned from local units, the community Parliament, socio-political organizations, the Urban Parliament, the Belgrade Chamber and 9 decorations with which Comrade Tito decorated some workers are only one more incentive for already good work in preparing for defense and protective work on the pattern developed.

The Local Unit as a Beehive

The "Dunav" unit is one of the most active in the Old City community. About 50 different awards, certificates of merit, medals and prizes, to which was added this year's Belgrade October Award, testify to its work. In past years, the local unit has been especially active in organizing and conducting preparations for national defense and joint self-protection.



Inspection of a civil defense unit.

In a few previous tests, and especially for this year's "Kosmaj 80" exercise, and in the "Nothing Surprises Us" activity, a high level of training has been demonstrated in defense and protection, beginning with local units as a whole, through special purpose and specialized units, to every street and house council.

These successes did not occur unexpectedly, but are the result of multi-year efforts and support by almost everyone of the 4,700 inhabitants in the local units. Consequently, not only at those times, but in many other situations and especially in the difficult days of the illness and death of Comrade Tito, the entire local unit resembles a beehive in which everyone, from pioneer to pensioner, knows his job. Defense is really everyone's concern.

The leader of the local civil defense unit staff, Dorde Zuber, stresses that the staff would not be able to do much by itself without the help of other allied structures: the basic organizations of SK [Communist League], youth organizations, SUBNOR [expansion unknown], SRVS [expansion unknown], pioneer and scout troops, Red Cross organizations, etc.

To better organize the local unit area (150 buildings and 1,562 apartments), it has been divided into 6 block-branches with their own

commanders and other officials. Moreover, within the limits of the local units there are 52 representatives from house self-protection, national defense and joint self-protection units.

Many enthusiasts, who have worked daily for several hours, deserve credit for the fact that the local unit has very good and reliable files of every inhabitant by block and house council. In addition, almost all house councils have continued tenant meetings, lectures and seminars at which they explain procedure in case of alert, black-outs, and the handling of fire apparatus. Trial building black-outs and partial evacuation of the populace from several large apartment buildings have been conducted. In addition to inhabitants who are actively engaged in civil and territorial defense units, about 1,100 citizens have been completely trained.

Ljubo Dubljevic, the chairman of the Committee for Joint Local Unit Self-Protection, says they are working incessantly to further socialize defense and protection by raising the security education of the citizens. For this purpose many people have emphasized that sociopolitical workers give lectures which usually arouse a great deal of interest. Furthermore, Bogosav Mitrovic Sumar, Lt. Gen. Ret., the secretary of basic organizations and chairman of local unit national defense, emphasized that the security policy situation in a local unit is often on the agenda of community meetings. Very good collaboration has been achieved on this plane with worker organizations, the Old City Health Center and the Sixth Police Station, which are involved in all of its activity.

The territorial unit commanded by Aleksandar Kosanovic is particularly outstanding because of earlier work and for support of comrades from the "Dunav" local unit; this territorial unit has exhibited obvious interest in the populace, the young people and the pioneers, in addition to

participating in drills. The "Vaso Carapic" scout troop, one of the most active in the city, has also received expressions of gratitude.